

Dear Parents

Which is more urgent for you: the need to fit in, or the desire to stand out?

These two pressing and perhaps conflicting demands have been occupying our attention at JCoSS in the past week. They are surely a core part of the experience of every human being and something we all have to come to terms with as we mature, but they seem to me especially marked for those – like our students – who are growing up in a consumerist, liberal society.

Our culture sets a high value on individuality, choice and uniqueness, and on the virtues of tolerance and diversity, but our choices are often determined and constrained by market forces in ways we can't quite identify. You can choose what you like – so long as enough others want the same to make it economically viable to produce. Meanwhile, social media makes it all the harder to escape knowing what is 'trending' with the result that it can be very hard even to make a truly authentic choice. Small wonder that, for all the comforts that surround us, we are on many measures less happy than our forebears 50 years ago, and less happy than economically poorer societies today.

A wide range of options can certainly be bewildering (as Year 9 may shortly feel as they consider subject choices for GCSE), while the deep-seated need to belong is as powerful as ever. This, I suspect, is a key part of the 'zeitgeist', the spirit of the age that has seen the founding of a school such as JCoSS, a community of shared values which affirms the sense of Jewish belonging, whilst also allowing scope for individuality. One consequence is that we sometimes have to live in the midst of debate and struggle, so it is no surprise that one of the leaves on the JCoSS Learning Tree (see the October 2013 newsletter) is 'machloket' – arguing for the sake of heaven. There are worse things to argue about.

Some similar themes are live in the very different context of Holocaust Memorial Day which we have marked in various ways this week. How does a society deal with difference? How does it allow the quirky to flourish and how does it treat those whose values or choices are 'against the grain'? I have been encouraging students to reflect on these questions within the JCoSS community in assemblies this week. The grotesque answers to them that came out of Nazism are obvious; we have been keen to stress the significance of 'HMD' for also remembering more recent genocides. As you can read in later pages, students heard at first hand from a survivor of Nazi Germany who was rescued via the Kindertransport, and from a survivor of the Bosnian conflict. The questions students asked were insightful ('Can you forgive...?') and their reflections that were posted in the Heartspace as we gathered at the end of the day were as moving as they were diverse.

The story of the Kindertransport was also recalled by JCoSS students at New North London Synagogue on Sunday: the Zamar Singers, under Ms Humphreys' direction, performed extracts from Carl Davis' "Last Train to Tomorrow" with the composer himself at the piano. The piece tells the story of the Kindertransport from the point of view of the Kinder, and the words and music are haunting, moving but also accessible – as is typical of Carl Davis' work. The collaboration has been very successful and both parties are keen for JCoSS to perform the whole work in the future.

To return to the angsts of 21<sup>st</sup> century teenagers – let us not forget the greater angsts of those of us who parent them. It may bring you reassurance that on the whole they turn out ok in the end. As witness, our first Year 13 cohort of students are holding a clutch of university offers at a wide and wonderful range of institutions, including our first one from Cambridge. We hope they will fit in, and stand out, in all the best possible ways.

**Patrick Moriarty**  
**Headteacher**

# Year 10 Careers Interviews

We are developing careers education and guidance for our Year 10 students as they progress through the school. This builds on the careers guidance software, Fast Tomato, which the students started in Year 9. This online programme uses psychometric assessments to highlight students' interests, attitudes and motivations. Students are then presented with personally tailored careers and course advice. It can be accessed at <http://www.fasttomato.com>

Year 10s have also participated in form-by-form sessions exploring life skills and the personal skills required by employers and universities. Using a bag of sweets as a prop they discussed how many jobs were connected to the production and sales of the sweets in "Sweet Careers."

Starting in February and extending through to the summer term all Year 10 students will be offered a one-to-one career guidance interview with Mrs Raff, Head of Careers in her room. Interviews will last about 25 minutes and they are the first opportunity students will have to talk in detail about any career ideas they may have. Interviews are for students only and are confidential. Students will receive a careers action plan afterwards.

Of course many students will not have clear ideas at this time but the interview is a chance to start thinking about the things they are good at. It is also a chance to test out ideas in a safe environment. "What subjects do I need to be good at to be an architect?" "How can I become a journalist?" "Science is my weakest subject but I would like to be a doctor." "What job can I do if I'm good at Art?" These are some of the questions that students ask in careers interviews.

Part of the process is to help them start thinking about their interests, skills and aspirations. We want all our students to do as well as they can and this may be by studying in the 6<sup>th</sup> form at JCoSS, going to college, starting an apprenticeship or looking for a job.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> March we are holding a Careers Afternoon for all Year 10 students. More details will be announced shortly but we will ask parents to contribute their professional skills. Please see the later article on helping JCoSS students with their career ideas.

Mrs C Raff, Head of Careers

## Antony Lishak works with Y8

We were delighted to host Antony Lishak and to hear him talk about his new book, *Stars*.

This is Antony's 36<sup>th</sup> book but the first in which he explores his Jewish heritage. Antony shared his inspiration with the students, who were fascinated to hear about the emotional journey that writing this book involved. The book is a work of historical fiction and weaves a story around two fictional characters, one of whom is Jewish, during World War 2.

The two boys' playground is the Warsaw Zoo which in reality became a hiding place for Jews. It is estimated that Zabinski, the zoo's director, sheltered about 300 Jews in the basement of his family's villa and the empty cages of the zoo. Other real-life figures feature in the book, including Janusz Korczak, who ran the Jewish orphanage and famously chose to go to the gas chambers with them instead of taking the opportunity to escape. If you would like to find out more, please visit <http://www.antonylishak.com>

Mrs Lightman, Assistant Headteacher, Head of English



# Duke of Edinburgh's Award success

On Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January we were delighted that Zack Solomon became the first JCoSS student to be presented with his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. This was presented at a prestigious JLGB event by the Israeli Ambassador, Michael Taub. During the evening students from across the Jewish Community around the United Kingdom were recognised for their achievements and were able to meet HRH The Earl of Wessex, the Chief Rabbi and the Israeli Ambassador. Students from JCoSS 6<sup>th</sup> form Harry Ferner-Cornhouse and Sam Masters were also awarded their Bronze awards which they achieved at their previous Schools. This achievement will soon be matched by the other participants in Year 10 once they have completed logging their work on eDofE. If students need support with this, I am more than happy to help them. Next week will also see the launch of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award for Year 9 students, with over 60 students signed up, which we are pleased to see.

I am immensely grateful to have the support this year of Mr Macaulay, Mrs Beale, Mr Walker, Miss Rosshandler and Mr Fernandez all of whom are either supporting the delivery of training or expeditions. Last night we learned that DofE with JLGB has grown 567% in the last 5 years and JCoSS is now part of this success.



Long may it continue!

Mr M Todd  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator



## Jewish Book Week

On 20 January a group of JCoSS Y9 students joined students from Friern Barnet, JFS and Immanuel College to participate in an inter-school seminar at JFS on "Poetry on the Front Line", in preparation for an event at Jewish Book Week.

They heard from Jean Moorcroft Wilson, author of biographies of both Sassoon and Rosenberg. BBC drama producer Peter Kavanagh coached students in reading some of the poems aloud, including "Does It Matter?" by Siegfried Sassoon, and "Returning, We Hear The Larks" by Isaac Rosenberg.

The Jewish Museum and the Jewish Military Museum brought a handling collection of propaganda and objects related to World War One and to its collection of works by Isaac Rosenberg. Students also explored the experience and death of Marcus Segal, an ordinary Jewish soldier from Kilburn, London, whose letters home are preserved in the Jewish Military Museum archives.

Following the seminar the students will produce their own responses to the poetry, through creative writing. The best will be showcased at Jewish Book Week and four students will be selected to read Sassoon and Rosenberg's poems at this event.

Find out more about Jewish Book Week at: <http://www.jewishbookweek.com>





## Informal Jewish Education January Report

The informal Jewish Education department have had a great start to 2014, with celebrations for Tu B'Shevat – the New Year for Trees. Students collected fruit and made up fruit baskets for families in need which were distributed with help from our friends at GIFT. Students spent their lunchtime on Tu B'Shevat planting herbs and making 'grass heads' to take home and enjoy.

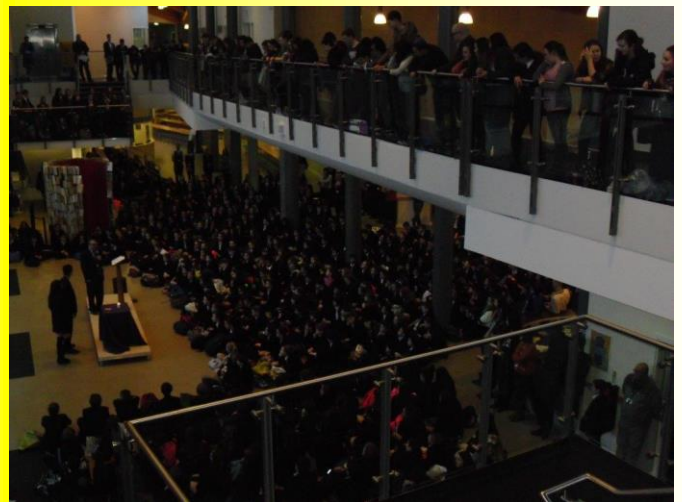
We also welcomed representatives from all the Zionist youth movements to our Summer Programmes Fair, giving students the opportunity to hear about the youth movements and their summer programmes first hand.



The Year 7 Shabbaton took place at the end of January at Skeet house in Kent. The group spent Shabbat together in a warm and fun – and of course pluralist – environment. A great time was had by all and we are already looking forward to the Year 7 York trip in the summer!



We commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day in school with a very exciting project. Mr Moriarty hosted a panel discussion with a Holocaust Survivor and a survivor of the Bosnian War who spoke to a group of students about their experiences. Our Media Department filmed the event, and the edited film was shown on Holocaust Memorial Day Jan 27th throughout the school and was followed by a memorial service. A copy of the film is available on the school website.



Mrs S Levan – Informal Jewish Education

# Gifted and Talented → Able and Ambitious

The Gifted & Talented policy at JCoSS is changing this academic year. The main change is that it will be now called Able & Ambitious. The reason for this change is that we hope to not only recognise the brightest and most academically able students here at JCoSS but to identify and give opportunities to those students who are hard-working, determined and display attitudes that are vital for success in the wider world. You will hear more about the new policy and programme changes over the forthcoming months.

On **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014** Year 9/10 students will be attending the launch ceremony of The Brilliant Club at Lady Margaret Hall, **University of Oxford**. Students will have a tour of the college, meet their PhD tutor and have their first tutorial session based on either the Arts/Humanities or STEM stream. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)



The Brilliant Club programme is delivered by trained PhD students from a research university or institute, and involves two university trips and four in-school tutorials. The tutorials follow a course which has been designed by the PhD student around their own, cutting-edge research, and are designed to push the students to develop the academic skills they will need to secure places at highly selective universities.



A cohort of students in Year 8 have been busy using IGGY.net; an online social network for able students providing them with challenging tasks and activities developed by top academics at Warwick University. It allows students to get to know and collaborate with other able students from around the world. IGGY is quickly building its membership across the UK and further afield in Singapore, Hong Kong, Pakistan and Indonesia.

Omer Samuel has won the January Member of the Month award, which is a remarkable achievement considering he was selected from the entire UK network of IGGY members. Omer has also won a National Poster Design Competition. Well done Omer.



A large cohort of students from Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be participating in an Aspire STEM event at JCoSS from Monday April 28<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. The workshops are run by *Inspire More Able Thinkers in Education* and are designed to give students the opportunity to work with a subject in a non-classroom situation, applying their knowledge and stretching their thinking skills to solve problems and come to reasoned conclusions.

The STEM sessions will be available to those students who have demonstrated consistency in their attitude and determination within science, their ability and potential within science and maths and their problem solving aptitude.

Mr T Smith  
A & A Lead Teacher



# Helping JCoSS students with their career ideas

As part of our plans to support your sons and daughters choose their careers we are starting a number of initiatives to enlist your help. Based on the Tu'beshvat principle that what you plant today will be of value for generations to come we would like to set up a list of the jobs, careers, skills and professions of our parent body.

This would be used in a number of different ways. Firstly our current Year 12 students will be looking for work experience places when they return to school after their AS exams in June 2014.

Secondly we are planning an interactive careers event for Year 10 on Monday 31st March from 2-4pm. We plan to offer 4 half hour sessions across a range of up to 15 different work areas for students to experience different careers. The sessions will be interactive with, for example, a surgeon offering a session on suturing, an architect composing 3d drawings or a barrister setting up a debate. Are you able to offer one of these or are you in a field of work that could offer something?

We are committed to helping students make the best choices they can and in view of this we want to ask for your help. In the future we may ask for your help with preparing students for interviews or contributing to a panel discussion on for example careers linked to Humanity subjects.

Please contact Mrs Raff, Head of Careers, (craff@jcross.barnet.sch.uk) or Mrs Robinson (srobinson@jcross.barnet.sch.uk) with your details. Your contribution could make all the difference to a current Year 10 or Year 12 student and in the future to your son or daughter.

Thank you

Mrs C Raff  
Head of Careers

## Welwyn Garden City Youth Drama Festival: 3-8th March.

This year, the participants from JCoSS have been cast from the Y10 GCSE Drama group. They will be performing 'Playing From The Heart' by Charles Way. The play tells the story of Evelyn Glennie – how, despite her profound deafness, she made an admirable journey to renowned success as a world-famous percussionist. JCoSS will be performing on Monday March 3rd, playing first at 7.30pm!



**8<sup>TH</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup> April**

**Tickets will be on sale  
after half term!**

## Spring Term Extra-Curricular Programme

As always, we have a diverse and exciting EC Programme this term.

The Programme is posted on the school website.

[\(http://www.jcross.org/extra-curricular-activities-2/\)](http://www.jcross.org/extra-curricular-activities-2/).

**Please have a browse with your child/children and encourage them to sign up.**

Participation in extra-curricular activities raises self-esteem, contributes to increased confidence, helps build new relationships and demonstrates that our youngsters are making a contribution to something. In addition, it will look great on their University applications! They can try out new experiences...learn new skills...meet new friends...become even more of a mensch! In addition to staff-run activities, we have Krav Maga (a form of Israeli self-defence) run by Mr Blond from the Streetwise Community Security trust and Step Into Dance run by the Royal Academy of Dance.

**Ms S Miller  
Head of Creative Arts**

# Dates for your diary

Tuesday 4 February:	JCoSS Parents' Association meeting; 8.00pm at JCoSS. (All welcome)
Thursday 6 February:	Year 13 Parents Evening: 4.30pm - 7.00pm
Monday 17 Feb – Friday 21 Feb:	School closed for half term
Monday 24th February:	School re-opens as usual at 8.30am
Thursday 5 March:	Year 9 Options evening: 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Sun 23 March – Thurs 27 March	Year 10 French trip
Thursday 3 April	Year 10 Parents Evening: – 4.30pm – 7.30pm
Monday 7 April	Fables & Bagels, Episode 4: 'The Loneliness of the Chametz Bagel'
Tues 8 April – Thurs 10 April	Schools Will Rock You show –
Friday 11 April	School closes for Pesach/Spring break at 1.25pm
Thursday 24 April	School reopens for Summer Term. (NB: We do not have a full fortnight's holiday)

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Please be aware that there have been some instances where parents have used Google to access term dates and have brought up old documents that have not been on the website for well over a year. The situation has now been rectified, but, in all future circumstances we strongly advise you to check important dates and information through the JCoSS website, rather than through a search engine.

Many thanks.

## Mini Bus donation

Businessman Richard Desmond, (owner of Express Newspapers, OK Magazine and Channel Five) has kindly donated a mini bus to JCoSS. The bus will be used to take the PSRP students on trips, such as to the supermarket and swimming and will also be used by all students for trips and sporting events.



Many thanks to Sharna Nothman from the Flower and Balloon Room for giving her time to decorate the mini bus with balloons and ribbons for the presentation.

For all occasions, contact Sharna on 0208 886 2471

The  
*Flower & Balloon Room*



JCoSS Parents' Association

# NEW SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SHOP

The JPA Second-hand uniform shop is now up and running and will be open at Parent Evenings and other events. All clothes have been laundered and are being sold at a fraction of their original cost.

Our first sales at the year 7 & 9 Parent Evenings were a huge success and we will be holding sales at the year 8 & 10 Parent Evenings too.

If you would like to donate uniform your child has outgrown, please ask them to hand it in to  
Mrs Benjamin at Student Services  
labelled "donated uniform"

or contact

Sharna Nothman at [jcoSSpa@outlook.com](mailto:jcoSSpa@outlook.com)

All proceeds to the JCoSS Parents' Association

## Uniform sale

Congratulations to the JPA for raising £252 from uniform sales at the last two Parents evening events.

We would be delighted to receive more unwanted uniform so we can continue to raise money in this way.

## 6<sup>th</sup> form Twitter

JCoSS 6<sup>th</sup> Form now have a twitter account.  
You can 'follow' us at @6thformsally





To find out more and for all the latest sports news, go to our JCoSS Sport Facebook Page

## JCoSS @ The Barnet X-Country Championships - Wednesday 15.01.14

Under the angry clouds at Allianz Park JCoSS' X-Country team battled through the highly offensive conditions against runners from all over Barnet District. With a week's worth of rain in one afternoon and with winds strong enough to make scant work of any Florida beach home, the runners really had it tough. However such is the tenacity and character of JCoSS students that they gave it everything they had and gained some very respectable results in the process. Well done to all those students involved in the Championships.

### Notable results:

Year 8&9 Girls: Sophia Godfrey - 8th position from 91 runners

Year 7 Girls: Chiara Whitefield 14th position, Zoe Harris 20<sup>th</sup>,  
Tamar Pelmont 29<sup>th</sup> from 91 runners

Year 8&9 Junior Boys: Aidan Raphael - 13th position, Josh Shack 14<sup>th</sup>,  
Jonathan Brown, from 71 runners



## JCoSS Year 8 Basketball vs Totteridge Academy - WON 36-8

At Totteridge Academy JCoSS played with all the swagger of men who knew their superiority. After sailing into a 12 point lead in the 2nd quarter, through some hot shooting from Harrison Leighton, Or Rapaport, and Saul Shimoni the lads really turned the screw in the 3rd. Man mountain Jonathan Jennycloss and Tom Hyde, a boy chiselled out of grid iron bars, were solid in defence as they rebuffed any scoring opportunities whilst Leighton, now playing with a certain 'joie de vivre' capitalised by hammering home lay up after lay up.

Well done to the following: Jonathan Jennycloss, Luka Janjic, Jonathan Brown, Saul Shimoni, Tom Hyde, Or Rapaport, Harrison Leighton and Harry Brodin.



# Holocaust Memorial Concert with Carl Davis CBE

JCoSS was approached by the New North London Synagogue to perform two songs from Carl Davis' Last Train to Tomorrow and support their commemoration of 75 Years since the Kindertransport. Carl Davis CBE wrote this piece to provide a narrative of those children who journeyed on the Kindertransport between 1938 and 1939 - escaping Nazi Germany and arriving in England.

The JCoSS Music department put together a small group of singers and learnt the songs in a handful of sessions – Carl Davis came to the school for two of these where he introduced the songs to us and spoke of the meaning behind them. We rehearsed with the composer accompanying on the piano.

As part of the Holocaust Memorial 2014 we performed the songs, with Carl Davis, to an audience of New North London Synagogue members, parents and 'Kinder' who came to the UK as children. After an introduction from Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg and Carl Davis we performed the two songs - and then heard stories from the Kinder.

It was a very warm and moving event - which we were very honoured to be a part of.

Ms A Humphrey  
Creative Expressive Arts Teacher



## JCoSS Parents Association

**JCoSS Parents' Association meeting - TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY, 8.00 PM AT SCHOOL**

**ALL WELCOME**

**PLEASE JOIN US TO HELP EXPLORE FUNDRAISING IDEAS AND PREPARE FOR THE BIG EVENT – J Fest**

Please confirm attendance on [jcoSPA@outlook.com](mailto:jcoSPA@outlook.com)

# JP Speak Out Regional Final 29<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Lost for words... Not something people would normally associate me with, but I was completely speechless! "Public speaking is an art form, a gift" declared Mr Christou, Headteacher of the hosting school, East Barnet. If so, surely JCoSS has a fantastic gift in Jamy Bristol-James. I think I was more nervous than Jamy when we arrived. There was a hub of nervous tension in the reception area. On the face of it, there was a self-assured confidence which, I think, plagued Jamy with a little self-doubt. During the warm-up prior to the competition, I couldn't quite get over just how confident a group of 15 year olds could be. Even at this stage I was willing Jamy to show them what she had, blow them away, instil a little bit of fear in the other contestants; I guess that's just the competitor in me.

"What is Fear?" she posed as she began her speech. It was that exact moment I realised Jamy didn't need to instil fear in other speakers and she certainly didn't need any reassuring glances from her Head of Year. I could rest in the knowledge that Jamy would indeed "Knock 'em dead!" and she didn't disappoint. She was enigmatic and memorising on that stage and had a truth, honesty and maturity which was way beyond her 15 years. As she stood there rooted to the stage and delivered her speech, the sense of pride was overwhelming. There were no gimmicks in Jamy's speech: a GCSE Drama student who didn't need to play a role to sell her point. What she offered was the truth, her truth, her personal story. There were students before and after who were equally inspiring but there was only one speaker, in my opinion, who connected with the audience in such an honest way.

What I couldn't get over was the bravery it must have taken to speak in front of a packed audience at such a tender age. Not only deliver an inspiring speech but the courage to share something so personal about her life; living with a chronic illness. Jamy was right when she said that to look at her, you wouldn't have a clue she was suffering. I think I almost shed a tear when Jamy was announced as the regional winner of the JP Speak Out Challenge. Amongst so many others, I had the privilege to witness this young woman face up to fear and win the battle.

I have many proud moments working at JCoSS but to date, this is perhaps the one that takes the biscuit. Jamy is a credit to her family, friends and the school and I am honoured to be her Head of Year! Huge congratulations on your success Jamy and roll on the Grand Final.

Miss J Gustard

Y10 Learning Coordinator







JCoSS PARENTS ASSOCIATION  
INVITES YOU

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE AT the 2014 SUPPER QUIZ



ON: Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March

WHERE: JCoSS

TIME: 7.00 pm

PRICE: £12 per person , to include supper and nosh

Contact:

I would like to buy:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) at \_\_\_\_\_ each or

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ table(s) at \_\_\_\_\_ per table

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Other table members \_\_\_\_\_



Please make cheques payable to JCoSS Parents Association and hand forms / monies into the school office in an envelope marked SUPPER QUIZ.

If you have any questions, please email us at

## JCoSS Parents Association – Raffle PRIZES / SPONSORSHIP

Dear Parents,

Would you be able to sponsor part of a Parents Association event or donate raffle prizes?

Sponsorship could be a great way to advertise your business or services to our school community which covers a wide geographical area. We would equally welcome anonymous donations if preferred.

We are currently looking for raffle prizes for the Supper Quiz in March.

We are also interested to explore matched funding opportunities. Are you employed by a company such as bank, solicitors, supermarket or grant awarding body? Many of these organisations will match our fundraising and you don't have to do anything.

Please contact us on [jcoSSpa@outlook.com](mailto:jcoSSpa@outlook.com)

Looking forward to hearing from you.  
JCoSS Parents' Association